

RESOLUTIONS ON MEDICINAL ALCOHOL

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL ON MARCH 25, 1931 AND AMENDMENTS

Introduced at the Stated Meeting of April 2. Adopted at the Stated
Meeting of May 7.

WHEREAS, The Congress has undertaken to fix the doses of wine and whiskey and brandy by legislative fiat, thus taking over a function properly belonging to the pharmacologist and physician, and

WHEREAS, The administration of the Volstead Act compels physicians to betray the confidences of their patients by keeping a record of their diseases and ailments for inspection by Federal Prohibition agents, and thus to violate the traditions of the medical profession, medical ethics and the laws of a number of States, and

WHEREAS, The legislature of the State of New York has enacted into law the Hastings Bill freeing the medical profession from the unwarranted usurpations of the Federal Congress over the control of medical practice, and

WHEREAS, Relief from these conditions has been sought in the courts and has been denied by the United States Supreme Court, and

WHEREAS, The Wickersham Commission has unanimously recommended:

1. "Removal of the causes of irritation and resentment on the part of the medical profession by:
 - a. Doing away with the statutory fixing of the amount which may be prescribed and the number of prescriptions;
 - b. Abolition of the requirement of specifying the ailment for which liquor is prescribed upon a blank to go into the public files;

- c. Leaving as much as possible to regulations rather than fixing details by statute."

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that The New York Academy of Medicine hereby formally expresses its disapproval of those portions of the Volstead Act which invade the right of the State of New York to regulate the practice of medicine within its own borders, and which deprive the physician of his right to the free exercise of his judgment in the practice of his profession, and be it

RESOLVED, that The New York Academy of Medicine demands of Congress the repeal of said portions of the Volstead Act, and be it

RESOLVED, that The New York Academy of Medicine urge each of its members to demand of his Senators and Congressman the repeal of said portions of the Volstead Act, and be it

RESOLVED, that The New York Academy of Medicine approves of the Hastings Act, and the return of the entire control of medical practice in the State of New York to the authority of the State, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary of The New York Academy of Medicine be, and hereby is, instructed to transmit a copy of these Resolutions to the Senators from New York and to each Representative in Congress of the State of New York.
